

AGENDA ITEM III A

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

B.S. in Urban Studies and Planning (CIP 45.12.01)

BACKGROUND

The University of New Orleans has a College of Urban and Public Affairs. This College offers four graduate programs: three Masters degrees (Urban Studies; Urban and Regional Planning; Public Administration) and one Ph.D. (Urban Studies). Currently, there is no corresponding degree program at the undergraduate level in the College to complement graduate offerings.

STAFF SUMMARY

Description/Objectives

The focus of the B.S. in Urban Studies and Planning is the urban built environment in all its social, political, economic, and physical/biological dimensions. The program's primary objective is to prepare undergraduates for entry-level positions that assist urban and environmental professionals in the public and private sector. The secondary objective is to prepare them for advanced professional or scholarly degrees in Urban Studies and related areas. The program, which is highly interdisciplinary, is thus to serve as a feeder program for graduate programs at UNO and other universities.

Curriculum

The curriculum totals 128 credit hours. The sequence begins with General Education coursework (50 hrs), which meets General Education standards. Foundation Studies in statistics, microeconomics, and social sciences follow (27 hrs). Major Requirements are then fulfilled with a series of courses at the 4000-level, which include studies in impact assessment, transportation planning, social structure, history, and economics (39 hrs). Electives (12 hrs) complete the sequence.

Students

Enrollment figures appear satisfactory. The University projects 95 students to be enrolled in the program in 2001 (with 23 graduating) and sustained growth to 152 students (with 39 graduating) by 2005. These projections are based on data from the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program at the University: twenty percent of the 900 students in the BGS program enroll in at least one course

offered by the College of Urban and Public Affairs; about ten to twelve percent of each graduating class from the program has pursued Urban Studies as a significant part of its curriculum; and at least six students from each of these recent graduating classes have gone on to enroll in graduate programs in Urban Planning and Development. According to the University, the number of students in the BGS program who pursued Urban Studies-like concentrations has increased over the past five years.

Faculty

The program's entire sequence of courses can be offered by current faculty, the majority of which will come from the College of Urban and Public Affairs; this faculty appears well-qualified. In the program's Fall 1999 semester, the ratio of full-time students to full-time faculty was 10:4.

Facilities and Equipment

Library holdings are more than adequate for baccalaureate support. UNO has allocated an additional \$1000 a year to expand library holdings in Urban Studies and Planning over the next five years. Other facilities and equipment appear adequate. No new facilities and equipment are needed.

Administration

Administration appears adequate. The program is to be administered by the College of Urban and Public Affairs. A Coordinator who has faculty rank is to supervise the program and report directly to the Dean.

Accreditation

No accreditation is available for this program.

Budget

No additional State monies are needed.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The proposed program appears to meet all requirements for implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval of the Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning at the University of New Orleans (CIP Code 45.12.01) to be implemented in Fall, 2000.